AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following marked up paragraph for the paragraph now appearing at page 11, line 20 through page 12, line 30:

Weighting filter 5050 receives, at its inputs, the input vector from input terminal 30 and the linear prediction coefficient $\alpha_j^{(m)}(n)$ from linear prediction coefficient converting circuit 5030, uses the linear prediction coefficient to produce a transfer function W(z) of the weighting filter corresponding to human auditory characteristics. The weighting filter is driven by the input vector to obtain a weighted input vector. Weighting filter 5050 outputs the weighted input vector to differentiator ~~5070~~ 5060. The transfer function W(z) of the weighting filter is represented as follows:

Please substitute the following marked up paragraph for the paragraph now appearing at page 26, line 20 through page 27, line 8:

Sound present/absent discriminating circuit 2020 receives, as its inputs, the LSP: $q_j^{(m)}(n)$ outputted from LSP decoding circuit 1020, the speech mode S_{mode} outputted from speech mode determining circuit ~~2050~~ 3050, and the power outputted from power calculating circuit 3040. The procedure for deriving the amount of variations in spectrum parameter in sound present/absent discriminating circuit 2020 is given below. The LSP: $q_j^{(m)}(n)$ is used herein as the spectrum parameter. In n-th frame, a long time average $q_j(n)$ of the LSP is calculated with the following equation:

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Please substitute the following marked up paragraph for the paragraph now appearing at page 33, line 2:

Fig. 9 shows a speech signal decoding apparatus of a fourth embodiment of the present invention. The speech signal decoding apparatus differs from the speech signal decoding apparatus shown in Fig. 7 in that input terminal 50 and second switching circuit ~~7100~~ 7110 are added and the connections are changed. The speech signal decoding apparatus shown in Fig. 9 also forms a pair with the conventional speech signal coding apparatus shown in Fig. 2 to constitute a speech signal coding and decoding system, and is configured to receive coded data outputted from the speech signal coding apparatus shown in Fig. 2 to perform decoding the coded data. In Fig. 9, the functional blocks identical to those in Fig. 7 are designated the same reference numerals as those in Fig. 7.

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